# Aquatic Invasive Species

# Organisms in Trade

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#### **Organisms in Trade (OIT)**

- Refers to unwanted species sold or moved in trade
- May be intentional sales, such as plants for aquariums or ornamental ponds, or fish for aquaculture
- May be unintentional introduction as contaminants or misidentification/unfamiliarity with scientific name
- AIS OIT includes plants, fish, mammals, mollusks and other invertebrates

#### **Channels of Trade for Introducing OIT**

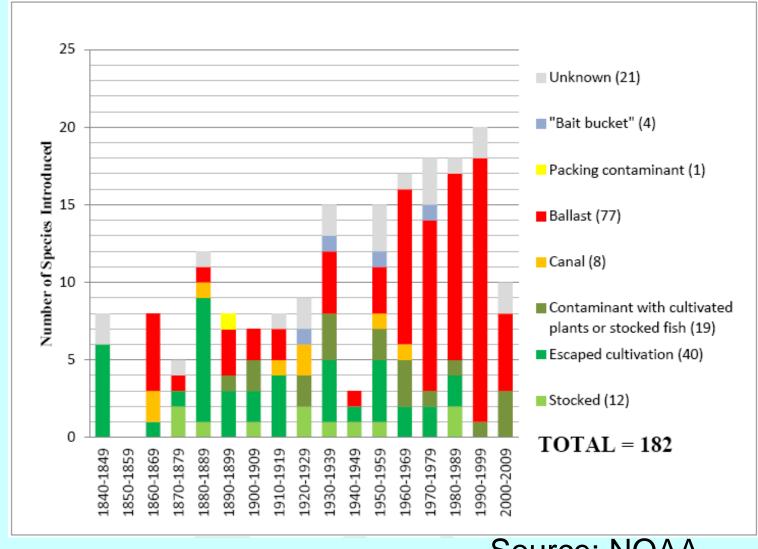
- Suppliers of
- aquarium and ornamental pond plants
- Wetland plants
- Fish for aquaculture or bait use
- May involve
  - traditional sales to/through retail stores
  - internet sales
  - trafficking in illegal plants & animals

#### New opportunities/new risks

- Internet: the new pathway
- New opportunities for sales of regulated organisms
- Online auctions
- Internet discussions, interest groups and chat rooms



#### Introduction of AIS to the Great Lakes



Source: NOAA

### aquatic plant vendor study

- Maki & Galatowitsch 2003 U of Minnesota
- mail order study
- 40 orders, 34 vendors across U.S.
- Federal/state regulated species acquired
   92% of time
- 93% contained a species not requested
- 18% had misidentified plants

## **Carolina fanwort**



# **Flowering Rush**



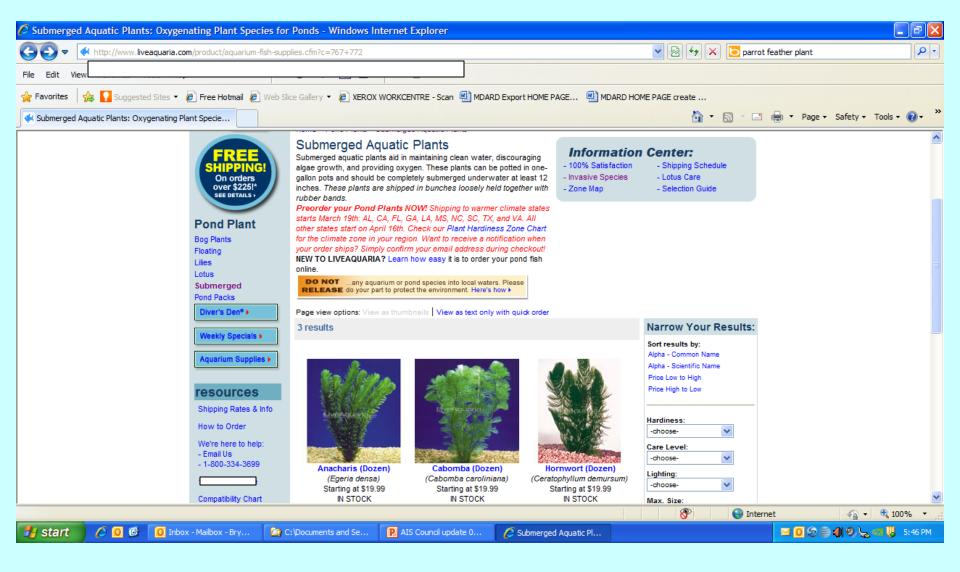




#### How big is the threat of AIS in trade?

- Easy to buy some species on the internet
- Easy to buy some species at certain local stores
- Sellers unaware of misidentified product
- Package deals made up for chain stores sometimes include species regulated by Michigan or USDA
- Distribution to friends & neighbors of exotic species

#### Internet sales



#### **Legal Authorities**

- Natural Resources & Environmental Protection Act, Act
   451 of 1994, Part 413
- Insect Pests and Plant Diseases, Act 189 of 1931
- Aquaculture Development Act, Act 199 of 1996
- Animal Industry Act, Act 466 of 1988

#### NREPA part 413

- Identifies 44 prohibited or restricted AIS
- Requirements for permits, fines & public information
- Identifies meaning of "possession" and exemptions
- Section 324.41302 Listing/delisting process

#### Listing/delisting

- Commission may add to/delete from 324.41301
- Post proposed order on web site; copies to legislature,
   senate & house committees on agriculture,
   environmental and natural resources issues
- Identifies broad criteria
- Does not specify Who/What/Where process for submitting a species

#### **Michigan NREPA Species**

- 18 plants
- 13 fish
- 2 insects
- -8 mollusks
- -1 mammal
- -1 bird
- -1 crayfish

#### Michigan NREPA regulated plants

- Butomus umbellatus flowering rush\*
- Cabomba caroliniana Fanwort\*
- Cylindrospermopsis raciborskii Cylindro
- Egeria densa Brazilian elodea \*
- Fallopia japonica Japanese knotweed\*
- Heracleum mantegazzianum Giant hogweed



#### Michigan NREPA regulated plants

- Hydrilla verticillata hydrilla
- Hydrocharis morsus-ranae European frogbit\*
- Lagarosiphon major African oxygen weed\*
- Lythrum salicaria purple loosestrife\*
- Myriophyllum aquaticum parrot's feather\*
- Myriophyllum spicatum Eurasian watermilfoil\*



#### Michigan NREPA regulated plants

- Nitellopsis obtusa Starry stonewort
- Nymphoides peltata Yellow floating heart \*
- Phragmites australis common reed\*
- Potamogeton crispus curly leaf pondweed
- Salvinia molesta, auriculata, biloba, or herzogii Giant salvinia \*
- Trapa natans Water chestnut\*

\* Indicates species has been sold/utilized for aquarium, water gardens or similar activities

#### MDARD AIS OIT Objectives

- Prevent new introductions & spread of AIS through water garden & aquarium plant trade channels
- Prevent spread of AIS through aquaculture & fish stocking activities

#### **Challenges/Opportunities**

- State agencies may not have traditional interactions
   with some industry groups not required by statute
- Smaller state work force & reduced funding
- Best Management Practices promotion in industry
- Increased partnerships with industry groups

#### **MDARD Action Plan**

- Train staff in support of compliance inspections
- Identify universe of firms that sell aquatic plants & fish
- Conduct education & outreach w/ industry
- Administer AIS permit program in support of research and educational activities
- Provide information on regulated species

